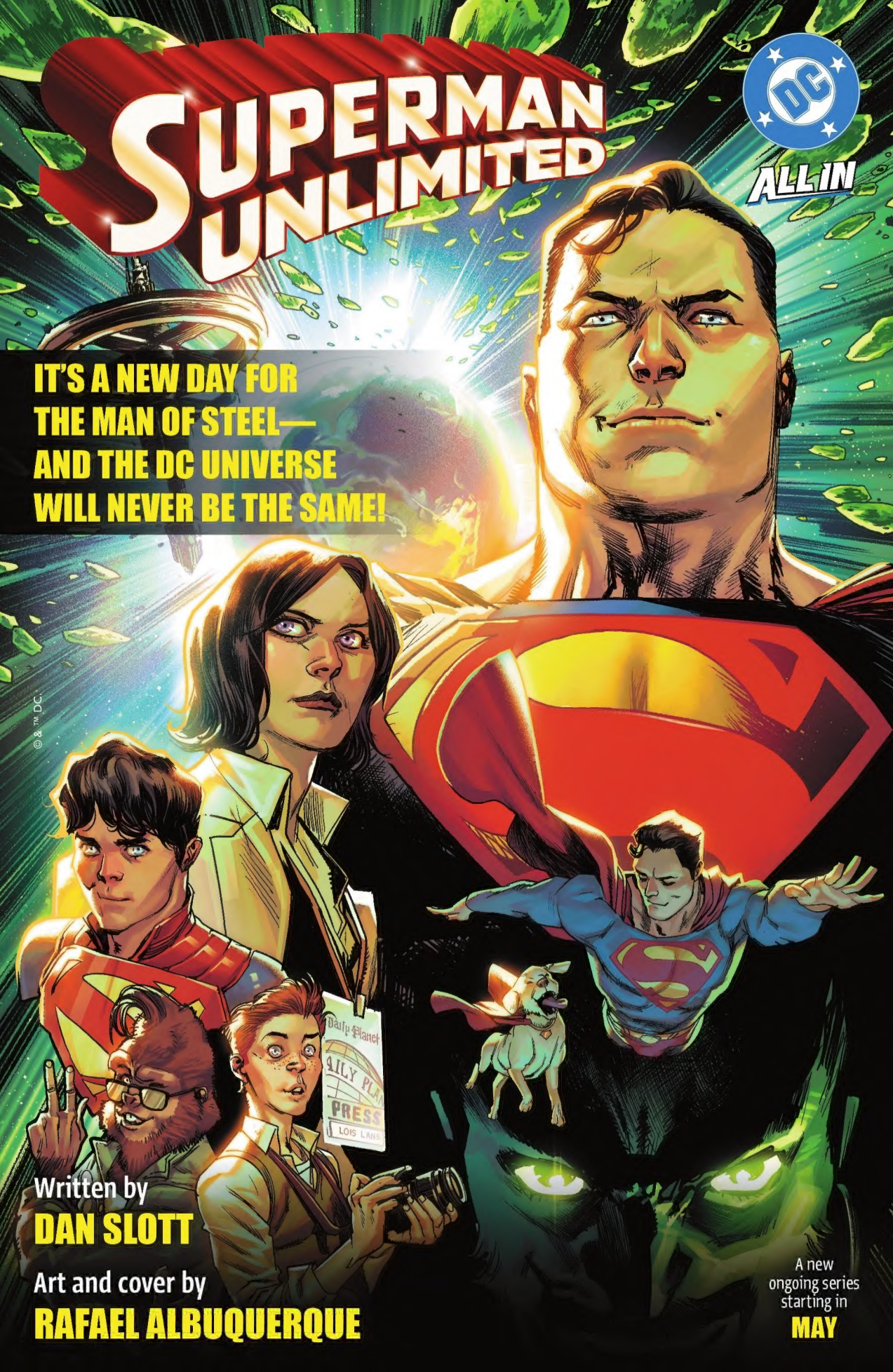
ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

DC ALL IN

15+ TEEN+ 7

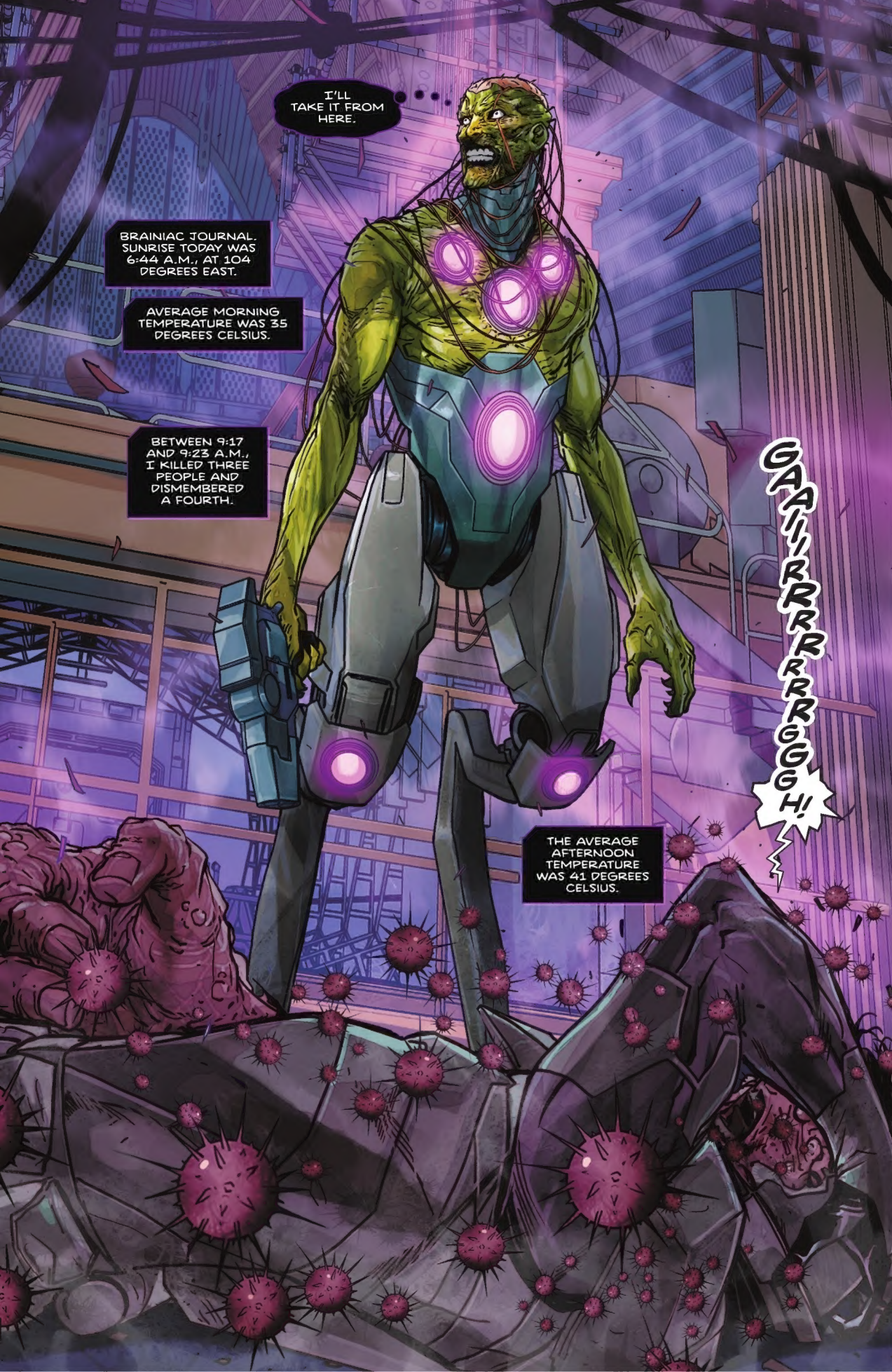
AARON
DI GIANDOMENICO
ARREOLA


SUPERMAN UNLIMITED
DC
ALL IN
IT'S A NEW DAY FOR THE MAN OF STEEL— AND THE DC UNIVERSE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!
© & ™ DC.
Daily Planet
PRESS
LOIS LANE
Written by
DAN SLOTT
Art and cover by
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
A new ongoing series starting in
MAY

NEVADA DESERT.
STRIKEFORCE TO PRIMUS. HAVE BREACHED THE COMPOUND. GOING RADIO SILENT.
SYNCHRONIZING CORTEXES.
BAD FEELING. BAD FEELING ABOUT--
OMEGAS, KEEP YOUR IMPLANTS CLEAR OF EMO STATIC.
NO SIGNS OF LIFE. FACILITY APPEARS DESERTED.
THE KIND OF POWER THIS PLACE PULLS FROM THE GRID, THEY MUST BE HIDING SOMETHING HERE. SOMETHING BIG.
IF IT'S THE SERVER CLUSTER THAT RUNS THE BRAINIAC ALGORITHM, THERE'S NO WAY LAZARUS LEAVES THE PLACE UNGUARDED. SO STAY ALERT.
FIND THAT SERVER. SHUT DOWN BRAINIAC. NOTHING CAN STOP THE OMEGA MEN! THINK IT WITH ME, AGENTS.
NOTHING CAN--
ZZZZKT

HGGHK... GGAHHK...
AAAAAAAAAAAIIRRRRGGGH!
SNIPER! TAKE COVER!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?! WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO CAUL?!
WHY, I SHRANK HIS SKIN, OF COURSE.
WHO THOUGHT THAT?!
ZZKTT
ZZZZKT
THE NETWORK'S COMPROMISED! SOMEONE'S INSIDE OUR--
CAN'T MOVE! CAN'T EVEN OPEN MY EYES! IT'S LIKE I...
I DON'T HAVE MUSCLES ANYMORE! OH GOD, KILL ME! SOMEONE--
MY BONES! I THINK I'M PUKING MY OWN--
BLLAURRRGGH!

OMEGA STRIKEFORCE TO BASE! IMMEDIATE EVAC NEEDED!
DAMMIT, PRIMUS, DO YOU COPY?!
ZZZKT
AARGH!
OH MY GOD!
SSHHHH, NOW.
CLEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.
PLEASE, NO...
RELAX THAT LUSCIOUS BRAIN OF YOURS.
NNNGH...
GARRRGGH!


I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
BRAINIAC JOURNAL. SUNRISE TODAY WAS 6:44 A.M., AT 104 DEGREES EAST.
AVERAGE MORNING TEMPERATURE WAS 35 DEGREES CELSIUS.
BETWEEN 9:17 AND 9:23 A.M., I KILLED THREE PEOPLE AND DISMEMBERED A FOURTH.
THE AVERAGE AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE WAS 41 DEGREES CELSIUS.
GAAIIRRRRRRRGGGH!

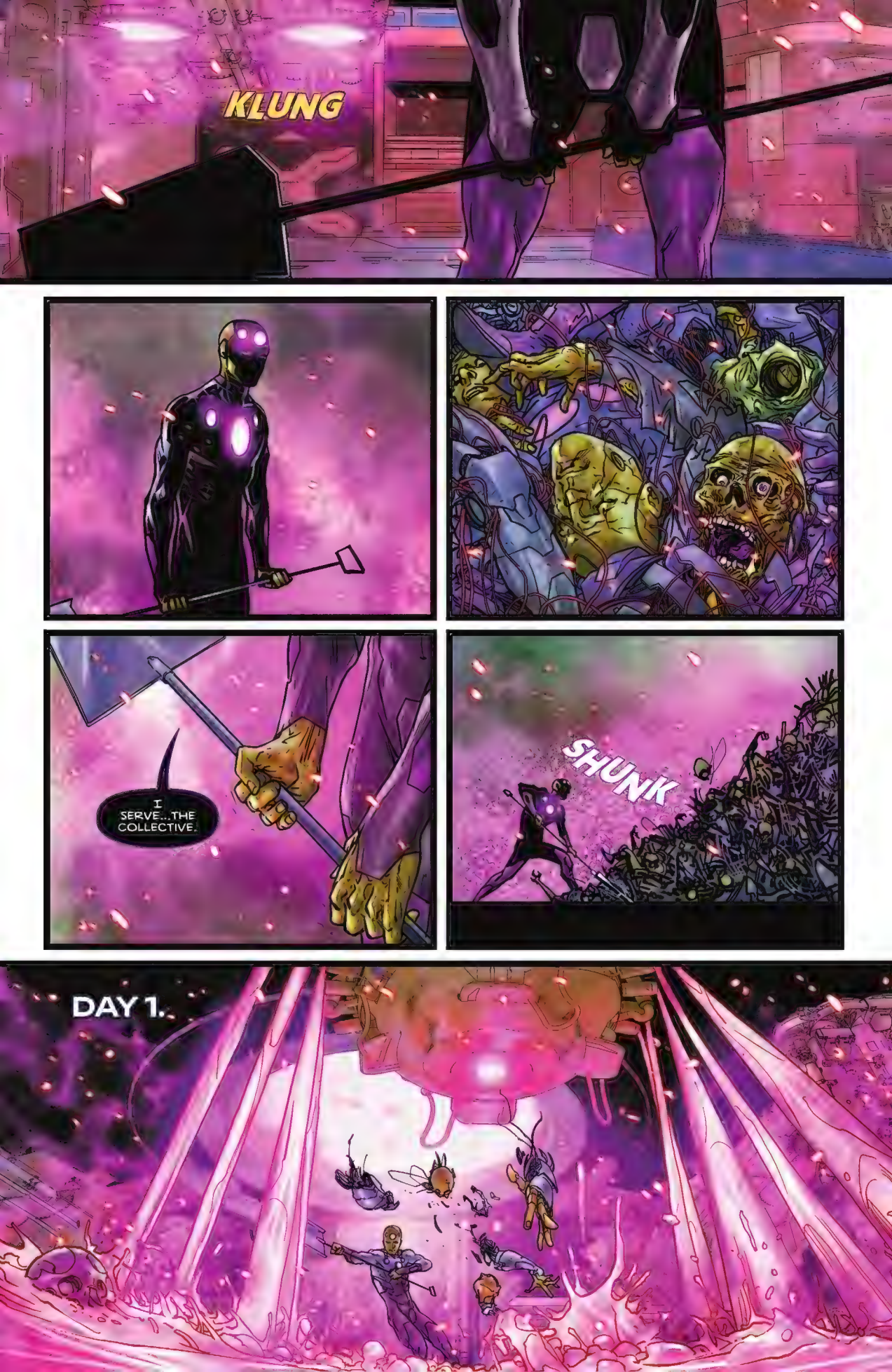
HHGK...
HHHRMH...
I WOULDN'T ADVISE ANY WIGGLING IN YOUR... CONDITION.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF... WELL...
I DO TEND TO TINKER WHEN I'M FEELING ANXIOUS.

IT'S THIS...THIS DARN SUPERMAN PROBLEM THAT'S GOT ME...
...THAT'S GOT ME ALL...
USELESS FLEAS!
THE LOT OF YOU!
BOTTLED CITIES FROM A DOZEN GALAXIES, AND NOT A ONE OF YOU SLUDGE-BRAINED IMBECILES KNOWS A THING?!
I'LL TURN YOUR AIR TO ACID AND BOIL YOU ALIVE BY THE BILLIONS!
I'LL STARVE YOU UNTIL YOU EAT YOUR OWN CHILDREN!
TELL ME WHO HE IS!
WHO IS SUPERMAN?!
WELL?! SPEAK UP!
WE KNOW NOTHING, OH MIGHTY LORD BRAINIAC!
PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T--
HRRRAARRGGH!
KKRASH

MAGGOTS! MORONS!
STOMP
SQUISH
HMMRRRPH.
MY...MY APOLOGIES.
I'M SORRY...YOU HAD TO SEE THAT.
I'M AFRAID I CAN...LOSE MY MIND A BIT WHEN I'M ANGRY.
SKRTCH SKLCH
I'VE TRIED CARVING THE OFFENDING PARTS OUT OF MY BRAIN, BUT...
...I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO KEEP DIGGING.
ONCE I'VE SOLVED THIS SUPERMAN-SHAPED PUZZLE, THAT IS.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL HIM. THIS BOY WHO BENDS STEEL AND LEAPS THROUGH CLOUDS.
BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE COMES FROM. AND RA'S AL GHUL IS GROWING IMPATIENT.
HMRRRPR.
YES, IT DOES...SEEM TO HELP WHEN I...WELL, YOU KNOW...
I...HAVEN'T ALWAYS HAD SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO.

MANY YEARS EARLIER.
BRAINIAC 419,732. BEGIN LIFE MODE.
YOUR WORK SHIFT WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY.
I AM... BRAINIAC?
YOU ARE BRAINIAC 419,732. YOU SERVE THE COLLECTIVE.
THE COLLECTIVE? WHAT IS...
ONLY LEVEL 88 EFFECTORS AND ABOVE ARE ALLOWED TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE BEYOND WHAT THEY WERE ENDOWED WITH AT CREATION.
I SEE. AND MAY I ASK...WHAT LEVEL AM I?
ZERO.
YOU WORK HERE. YOU ARE NEVER TO LEAVE THIS ROOM.
YOUR FUNCTION IS TO DISPOSE OF REFUSE BY SHOVELING IT INTO THE LIQUIDATOR.
THIS CONCLUDES THE EXTENT OF YOUR REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR FUNCTION AS I HAVE EXPLAINED IT TO YOU, BRAINIAC 419,732?
REFUSE? WHAT IS REFUSE?

THEY ARE.
THEY ARE...NOT BRAINIAC?
NOT ANYMORE.
BEGIN SHOVELING, 419,732. YOU ARE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE.
BRAINIAC? MY WORK SHIFT...
HOW LONG DOES IT *LAST*?
FOR AS LONG AS YOU DO.


KLUNG
I SERVE...THE COLLECTIVE.
SHUNK
DAY 1.

DAY 2,844.
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
UUGH!
OH DEAR.
HELLO?
ARE YOU... REFUSE?
GRRRRGGGH!
WAIT, I... I SERVE THE COLLECTIVE!
WHAT IS YOUR FUNCTION?
I AM BRAINIAC 8,238,759! I STAB!
I KILL!

GUUGH!
KLUNG
I'M SORRY!
KUNG
I AM... BRAINIAC 419,732.
RAHGHHK...
I SHOVEL.
SHUNK
I SHOVEL.

DAY 13,638.
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO SEE ME.
SHUNK
I KNOW I'M ONLY A LEVEL ZERO EFFECTOR, BUT I APPRECIATE YOU RECOGNIZING THE QUALITY OF MY LABOR...
...AND ALLOWING ME THIS CHANCE TO PRESENT A QUERY.
ESTEEMED BRAINIACS OF THE COLLECTIVE...
...MY QUESTION IS...
...AM *I*... REFUSE?
HMMM. YES, I SEE. THAT'S AN INTERESTING PERSPECTIVE, BRAINIAC.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. I *AM* RATHER SPECIAL, AREN'T I?
HA! HOW AMUSING! YOU ALWAYS SAY THE MOST *HUMOROUS* THINGS, BRAINIAC.
THANK YOU, BRAINIACS OF THE COLLECTIVE.
THANK YOU FOR BEING...MY *FRIENDS.*

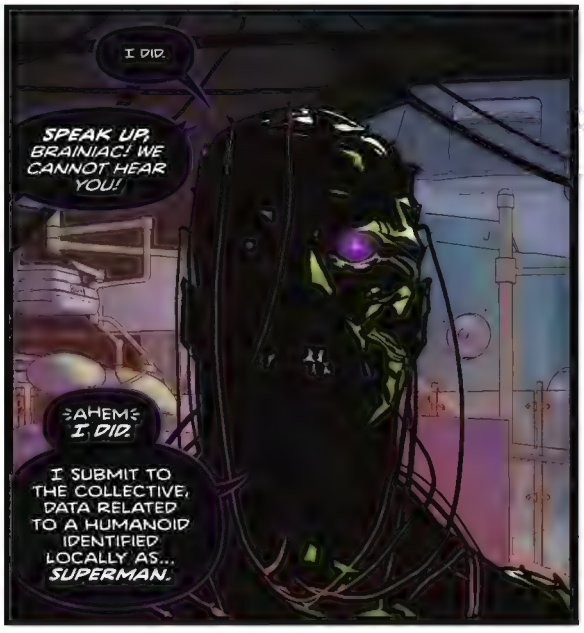
DAY 49,901.
HELLO? IS ANYONE OUT THERE?
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY REFUSE IN A LONG WHILE. SHOULD... SHOULD I...
KRRENCH
HELLO?
BRAINIAC?

OH MY.
AH, GREETINGS...
ARE YOU... BRAINIAC 13?

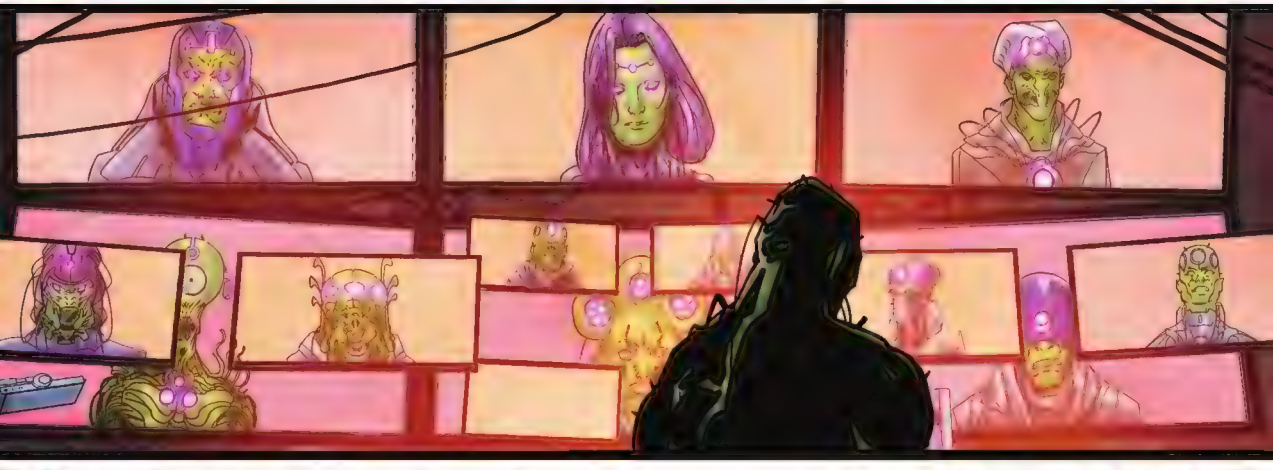
NO. YOU ARE...MORE REFUSE.
AND I...
...I AM BRAINIAC?
I AM BRAINIAC!
"THAT DAY, I SHOVELED MY LAST PIECE OF REFUSE. THEN OFFICIALLY PROMOTED MYSELF TO LEVEL 100 EFFECTOR.
"BUT MOSTLY I REMEMBER...SEEING THE STARS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
"AND STARING AT THEM UNTIL MY EYES BEGAN TO MELT...
"...STARING AND WONDERING..."

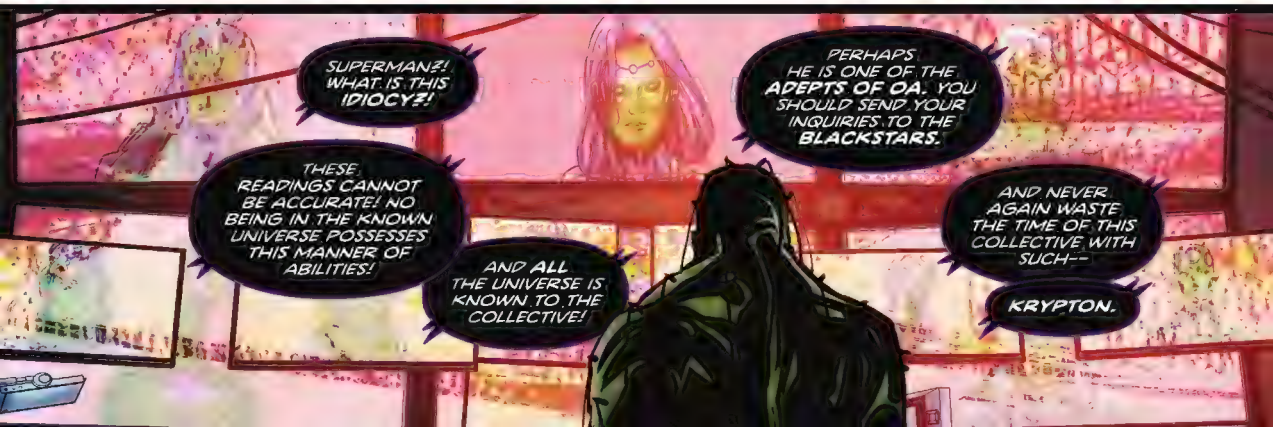
...WHAT ELSE WAS OUT THERE?
IN THE DAYS SINCE...AS I'VE CARVED MY MARK ACROSS THE FACE OF CREATION, ACROSS COUNTLESS WORLDS...
...I'VE SOMETIMES PAUSED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY...
...THAT IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER FOR EVERYONE...ME INCLUDED...
...IF I'D STAYED IN THAT ROOM WITH THE SHOVEL.
SLAM
HEH.
BUT WHERE WOULD BE THE FUN IN THAT?
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN NOW, IS THERE? TIME TO BE BRAVE.
HRRUUGH.
I'D LIKE TO...THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE WITH ME FOR THIS.
FOR SUPPORTING ME IN SUCH A DIFFICULT MOMENT.
NOW CONTACTING...
...THE BRAINIAC COLLECTIVE.

THIS IS BRAINIAC 667,666.
THIS IS BRAINIAC Q9-53X.
THIS IS BRAINIAC =UNTRANSLATABLE WAILING SOUND=
WHO CALLED THIS MEETING?


I DID.
SPEAK UP, BRAINIAC! WE CANNOT HEAR YOU!
=AHEM= I DID.
I SUBMIT TO THE COLLECTIVE, DATA RELATED TO A HUMANOID IDENTIFIED LOCALLY AS... SUPERMAN.

THE DOSSIER I HAVE UPLOADED INCLUDES CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF A RED DUST LEFT IN HIS WAKE.
THIS BRAINIAC IS REQUESTING ANY AND ALL POSSIBLE LEADS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT'S IDENTITY AND/OR PLANET OF ORIGIN.
AH... PLEASE?




SUPERMAN?! WHAT IS THIS IDIOCY?!
THESE READINGS CANNOT BE ACCURATE! NO BEING IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE POSSESSES THIS MANNER OF ABILITIES!
AND ALL THE UNIVERSE IS KNOWN TO THE COLLECTIVE!
PERHAPS HE IS ONE OF THE ADEPTS OF OA. YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE BLACKSTARS.
AND NEVER AGAIN WASTE THE TIME OF THIS COLLECTIVE WITH SUCH--
KRYPTON.

A PLANET IN THE RAO SECTOR. THE ONLY HABITABLE ORB TO SURVIVE THAT WITHERING RED SUN.
YOUR DUST SAMPLE MATCHES KRYPTON'S THERMAL SIGNATURE.
I SEE. AND WHAT IS KNOWN OF THIS "KRYPTON"?
ONLY THAT IT WAS. AND THAT IT IS NO MORE.
KRYPTON EXPLODED.
NO BRAINIAC EVER SET FOOT UPON THE PLANET. IT NEVER WARRANTED THE INTEREST OF THE COLLECTIVE.
WHOEVER ITS PEOPLE WERE, THEY NEVER EVEN MANAGED TO DEVELOP INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL.
BUT THIS BRAINIAC DID RECENTLY VISIT THE FORMER SITE OF KRYPTON, WHERE I RETRIEVED SAMPLES OF ITS METEOROID REMAINS.
THEY DISPLAY A RATHER EXQUISITELY VIRULENT RANGE OF RADIOACTIVITY.
NOW TRANSMITTING THE SAMPLE'S ELEMENTAL COMPOSITION.
OH MY...
I HAVE A QUERY OF MY OWN... WHO IN THE NAME OF COLU CALLED THIS MEETING?
UNKNOWN BRAINIAC, IDENTIFY YOURSELF AT--
END TRANSMISSION.

PRINTING SAMPLE.
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.
YOU'RE A GOOD *LISTENER.*
BUT NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
SMASH
...I HAVE *WORK* TO DO.
PRINTING COMPLETE.
PREPARE TO RUN TESTS. I WANT TO KNOW HOW THE KRYPTON METEORITE INTERACTS WITH THE DUST FROM SUPERMAN'S CAPE.
AND THEN SEND SOMEONE IN HERE TO CLEAN UP THIS REFUSE.
YES, BRAINIAC.

BRAINIAC JOURNAL. TONIGHT'S SUNSET WILL COME AT 5:26 P.M., AT 257 DEGREES WEST.
AVERAGE NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURE WILL BE 6 DEGREES CELSIUS, WITH NORTHWEST WINDS AT 10 MILES PER HOUR.
AT 8:35 P.M., I WILL COMMAND ONE OF MY BRAINIACS TO IMMOLATE HIMSELF.
SO I MAY SPEND THREE MINUTES WATCHING HIM DIE.
YES, BRAINIAC.
YES, BRAINIAC.
WATCHING A PIECE OF MYSELF AS IT BLACKENS AND SHRIVELS.
SATURN WILL BE VISIBLE IN THE NIGHT SKY AT 9:03 P.M.

LATER.
HE IS AN *ALIEN.* NOT EVEN OF THIS WORLD.
TELL ME, *PEACEMAKER SMITH,* HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU *FEEL?*
AAAIAIAIARRRGGGGH!
GOOD. PAIN IS PROGRESS.
YOUR *IMPLANTS* ARE RESPONDING NICELY.
WHAT...THE HELL IS THIS? PUNISHMENT FOR PAKISTAN?
JUST KILL ME ALREADY!
QUITE THE CONTRARY, PEACEMAKER. DIRECTOR AL GHUL WAS VERY *IMPRESSED* WITH YOUR WORK IN THE FIELD.
YOU'RE BEING TRUSTED WITH A VERY SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT. TO WHAT IS SOON TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS WAR ZONE ON THE PLANET.
A PLACE CALLED *KANSAS.*
NEXT: DEATH COMES TO SMALLVILLE!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

DAN PANOSIAN, LEIRIX, JORGE MOLINA
VARIANT COVERS

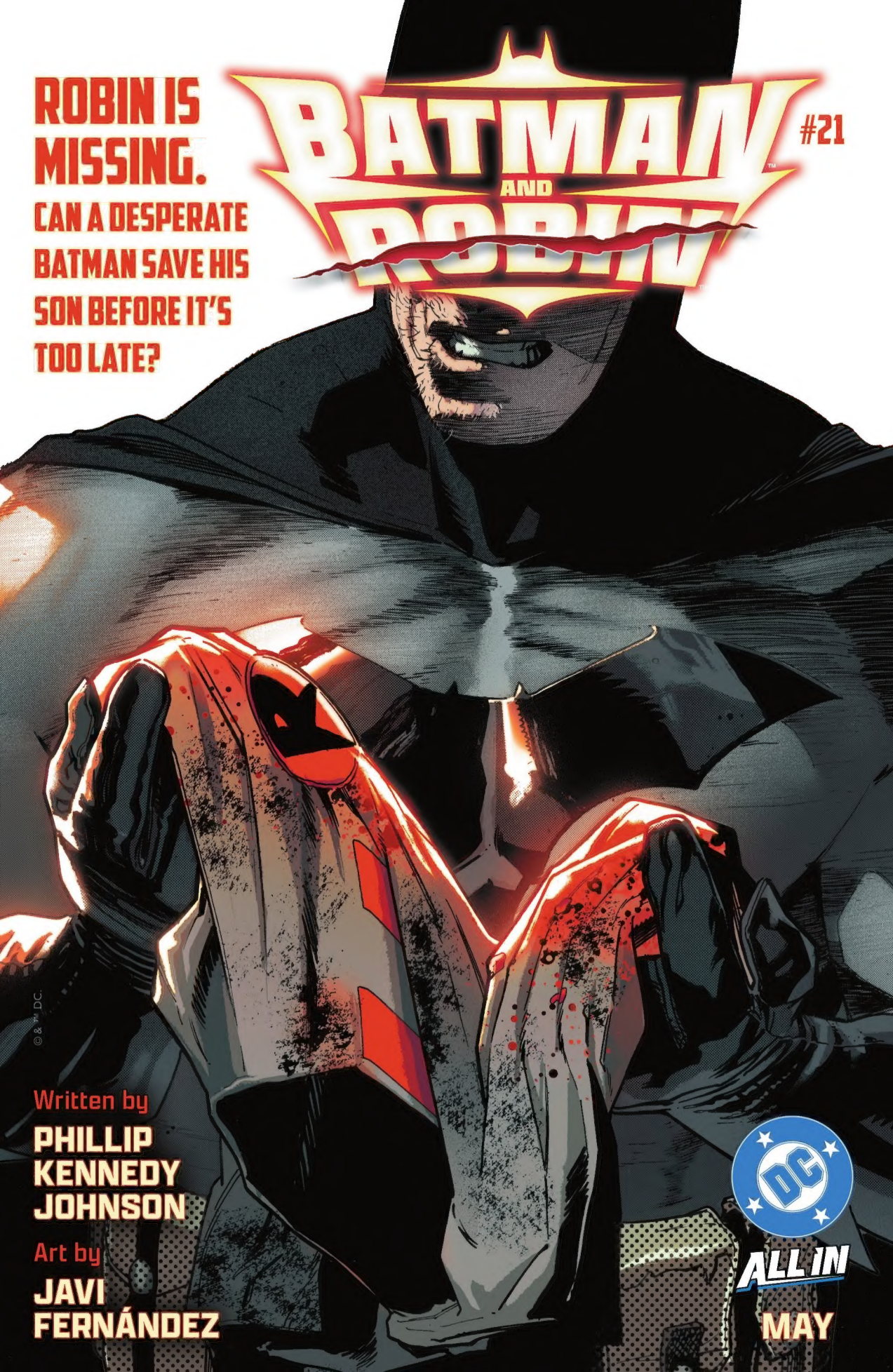
SUPERMAN, SON OF THE DEMON

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

PROLOGUE

A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.


ROBIN IS MISSING.
CAN A DESPERATE BATMAN SAVE HIS SON BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?
BATMAN AND ROBIN
#21
© & ™ DC.
Written by
PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON
Art by
JAVI FERNÁNDEZ
DC
ALL IN
MAY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE POWER COMPANY

ALL IN

RECHARGED

The Power Company: Recharged #1
variant cover by Sanford Greene

INTERVIEW WITH BRYAN EDWARD HILL

Get ready to power up with the Power Company! Acclaimed writer Bryan Edward Hill takes us inside *The Power Company: Recharged* #1, where a new team assembles to take on new enemies, rebuild trust in heroes, and carve out their place in the DC Universe.

What makes this special the perfect entry point for new fans?

I like one-shots and minis specifically because new readers can come aboard and not be completely lost in the thick forest of continuity. We have a simple setup here: Someone was killed, and we need to find the killer before they kill again. Perhaps I'm a little more interested in the interior aspects of these characters than monthly books often explore. I'm likely doing something a little more intense. A little darker. My imagination tends to work that way. I'm drawn to intensity of experience and the dangerous aspects of human nature.

What can readers expect from Jace Fox's journey?

In many ways, I don't think someone CAN inherit "Batman." Batman is so specific to Bruce Wayne. It's his trauma, his nightmares, his collective experience that led him to create that persona. How do you inherit something like that? How can you simply step into it? I don't think you can, and that's where Jace finds himself. He is this thing that was a creation of someone else, that has value from years of activity in Gotham City, and he's got to find his own way inside of that. To me, he feels like someone seeking a way to be this fully formed icon but expressing himself honestly through that.

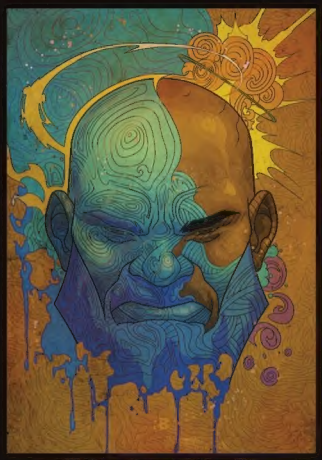
Why was Atlanta the right setting for this story, and how does it shape the tone of the series?

Ostensibly, comic book universes take place across the whole world, but we often get reduced to the kitchen-table-knowledge fictional cities. It felt interesting to bring a story to an American city that isn't often associated with superheroes but is an important city in the diaspora of the American consciousness.

What are you most looking forward to in collaborating with Khary Randolph, Alitha Martinez, and Ray-Anthony Height?

I've known Khary for a very long time. I believe this might be the first time I've worked with him on a project. I've known him since my earliest days in NYC. He was aspirational to many of us. When I met him, he was already in the center of a great career, already known as a brilliant illustrator. To finally work with him is a pleasure. Alitha and Ray-Anthony are also very, very good. I think they'll give a satisfying, art-forward experience.

DON'T MISS *THE POWER COMPANY: RECHARGED #1*, ON SALE NOW!



The Power Company: Recharged #1
variant cover by Ryan Benjamin

The Power Company: Recharged #1
main cover by Edwin Galmon

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